



**REGION 6 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (RRT)  
SEMI - ANNUAL REPORT**

**Period: January, 1996 – June, 1996**

**I. RECENT ACTIVITIES**

**A. Meetings**

1. Winter Semiannual RRT meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas 9 and 10 January 1996.
2. Summer Semiannual RRT meeting in Dallas, Texas on 8 July 1996.
3. Barge meeting with USEPA, LOSCO and USCG 24 April 1996 in Baton Rouge, LA.
4. Fresh Water Dispersant Use in Lower Mississippi. River Workshop held in New Orleans, LA (Texaco Bldg.) on 18 June 1996.

**B. Conference Calls:**

1. March 1996 - Dispersant use in lower Mississippi River. Seeking concerns/approval from RRT members and whether or not to proceed.
2. May 1996 - Abandoned Barge removal in the State of Louisiana (EPA, LOSCO and USCG).
3. May 1996 - OSC Preapproval Dispersant Use Manual, Revision 2.0, consensus and approval of RRT members.

**C. Exercises:**

1. 8 July 1996 - Texas General Land Office unannounced drill with MSO Port Arthur, American~ Eagle (RP) and NRC.
2. 31 July 1996 - Mineral Management Service unannounced drill with MSO New Orleans and Flores and Rucks (RP).

**D. Major Incidents:**

1. On 18 March 1996, MSU Galveston received a casualty report from the Tug SAN GABRIEL stating a crack was discovered in a barge in tow, T/B BUFFALO 292. Approximately 6,000 bbls, of a potential 17,000 bbls, of IFO-380 were discharged into the Houston Ship Channel in the vicinity area of the Intracoastal waterway.

Further investigation found damage to the No. 2 port and starboard tanks. Proper notifications were made to the MRC, TGLO, MSO Houston, Gulf Strike Team and primary RRT members. Garner Environmental Services was hired as the primary cleanup contractor.

Additional contractors were T & T Salvage, National Response Corporation and Marine Spill Response Corporation. This spill impacted wildlife (15 oiled birds), wetlands and shorelines in the Houston - Galveston area. Several weeks later, large tar balls surfaced on the beach near Corpus Christi.

2. On 24 May 1996, Marathon Oil Company had a gasoline spill, 7,500 bbls., in Grammercy, LA. The spill was due to a ruptured 20 inch pipeline from a Garyville, LA refinery to the Grammercy location. MSO New Orleans was the first OSC and established the Incident Command Structure with State and local authorities.

Being an inland spill, EPA later assumed the role of OSC. The spill covered approximately three miles of Cypress Swamp and required a major state highway to be closed. The RRT was convened to discuss public and site safety, explosive hazards and potential environmental damages.

3. On 26 May 1996, MSO Houston responded to a call from the M/V SAN LEANDRO stating that one of its barges, T/B BUFFALO BARGE 286, had buckled. The barge was carrying approximately 15,000 bbls of IFO-380 oil, discharging some 1,000 bbls into the Houston Ship Channel.

This was the second barge owned by Buffalo Marine Services, Inc. to buckle and discharge oil in the past two months, almost in the same location as T/B Buffalo Barge 292. The spill was contained and cleanup was started by the contractor, Garner Environmental Services. There was some environmental impact to wildlife, vegetation and shoreline.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

### A. Membership

1. Effective 1 July 1996, Department of Commerce primary representative for the RRT is LCDR Gary Petrae and LCDR Wade Blake will be the alternate representative. The address is NOAA/NOS/ORCA/HMRAD, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070. Office: (206) 526-6949, Fax: (206) 526-6329.
2. The new fax number for FEMA, RRT notification and POLREP is (817) 898-5263. This information was released by Mr. Kent Baxter, FEKA primary RRT representative.

### B. Committees: None

## III. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

### A. New Agreements. None

- B. Response Plans Revision: OSC Preapproved Dispersant Use Manual, with RRT approval, was revised on May 1, 1996. Revised manuals will be available by 6 September, 1996. Contact Mr. Welcome T. Duncan, (504) 589-6901 for copies of the revised manual.

## IV. FUTURE PLANS

### A. Meetings:

1. Winter RRT Semiannual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, on 8 January 1997. meeting to be held at the Department of Energy, Strategic Petroleum Reserve, 900 East Commerce Road,

B. Exercises:

1. Marine Safety Office Mobile, RRT Region IV, will act as OSC for an industry (vessel) led PREP drill during the second quarter of 1997. The designated responsible party will be the Kirby Corporation.
2. Marine Safety Office Houston will act as OSC for an industry (vessel) led PREP drill during the third quarter of 1997. The designated responsible party will be Aramco Services.